

Intimations.

GINGER ALE.

WE have always made good GINGER ALE, and we are now making the best. At various exhibitions and competitions in London and elsewhere, GINGER ALE made by the formula we now use has won 32 PRIZE MEDALS and CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

In 1890 competed and won against FOUR of the most famed Belfast makers.

The Analyst's report:-

"It is of unexceptionally good quality."
"Particularly pleasant to the taste."
"Decidedly tonic and sustaining."
"In every respect most satisfactory."

ARTHUR HILL HASSAL, M.D.

The ideal temperance beverage.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co., LD.
Victoria Dispensary,
Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong, 17th October, 1892.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

HIGH CLASS CONFECTIONERY

CHOCOLATE CREMES, VANILLA PRALINES, SUGARED ALMONDS, BURNT ALMONDS, NOUGAT, JUJUBES, TURKISH DELIGHT,

PARISIANS,

&c., &c., &c.

DELICIOUS FRUIT TELLIES.
ASSORTED PINEAPPLE, LIME, DAMSON, GUAVA, RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY, PLUM, &c.

CALLARD AND BOWSER'S
BUTTER SCOTCH, ALMOND ROCK and
EVERTON TOFFEE.

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATES
in great variety.
CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, MUSCATELS,
ALMONDS AND FIGS.

FANCY BOXES.
A large and varied Assortment of
ARTISTIC DESIGNS.

NEW YEAR CARDS
ENGLISH, JAPANESE AND CHINESE.
A splendid selection.

TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS,
A LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED STOCK.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 30th December, 1892.

The Hongkong Telegraph.
HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1893.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

The programme of to-morrow's Legislative Council meeting makes no mention of Official Salaries, so that presumably the subject is not to be revived at present; but as the great fight on this question has not yet been decided, and might at any time—must, sooner or later—reach the critical point, we beg leave to recapitulate the leading features of the problem, in concise form, in case Mr. O'BRIEN should again forget the facts and wander off into figures, fiction, poetry, and recrimination.

The simple facts are that during the Governorship of Sir Wm. WATTS, three or four years ago, there was an unexpectable boom in Hongkong, which infected everybody in the Colony—not one or two speculators, or a few share gamblers, but everybody in Hongkong. Life is too short to relate the thousands of mad things we did. Hardly a sane act can be recalled in that period. One result of the boom was that the price of land went up—far beyond its normal value, and in a few phenomenal cases as much as, possibly, 100, or 150 per cent. This, at any rate, was stated to be the amount of the rise, though now, in days of sober adversity, every one knows how utterly false and exaggerated it was. Anyhow, the Unofficial Members in Council thought that the rise in land, in cost of living, and in prices all round called for a rise in Official Salaries; but, chiefly the increase in rents was their reason. A Commission was appointed—practically all the residents in Hongkong had lost their reason, during the boom, so it matters little that the Commission was composed mostly of idiots—and Commission reported in favour of increase of salaries. The Council gave a vote for 30 per cent. increase, the Secretary of State, after

some hesitation, and apparently in a dubious frame of mind, sanctioned the vote, emphasizing the fact that it was only on account of the boom in prices of land principally; and that whenever the boom should collapse, the salaries should be cut down to a reasonable figure. Now, where is the boom?

This is briefly the history of the Official Salaries question, which Mr. O'BRIEN and Governor ROBINSON, freshmen of the freshest type, cannot of course be expected to grasp completely all at once, and naturally prefer to ignore as long as possible, in the interests of their own pockets. But that is no reason why any official, however hard working, should make himself obnoxious and hateful; there is no need for any unpleasantness at all. No amount of poetry or peevishness can alter the facts, nor persuade a people whose knowledge is complete and whose mind is made up. No amount of figure-juggling, nor even apparently conclusive statistics, can disprove the fact that the boom is burst, and the delirium is dead. Even the most brilliant orator cannot revive a stone-dead boom; but there is another thing which Mr. O'BRIEN is doing; he is sharpening, with the rough edge of his nasty tongue, the weapon that will be fatal to him. Crown Colonies are governed under a system which gives the officials absolute power—only as long as the Unofficials are willing to sit in the Council and be out-voted. For some inexplicable reason they have done so for an unreasonable long time; but even the worm will turn, and even the invertebrate jellyfish sting. The policy of the present Government seems, hitherto, to have been one of deliberate and gratuitous provocation, of carefully prepared insults, of eager malice. Every precaution is taken not to approach the delicate ground of sober argument on questions which can only be answered in one way. It will be interesting to know how much more the Unofficials will meekly endure before playing their trump card.

TELEGRAMS.

PROBABLE TERMINATION OF THE LANCASHIRE STRIKE.

LONDON, January 2nd, 1893.
Owing to the rise in the price of cotton, there is a prospect of the Lancashire strike being terminated shortly.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK.
At a meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India London and China it was agreed that the new Bank be registered as a limited liability company.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MAILS Due:-
Bombay (Bomida) 5th inst.
EXTREMES Meet.—The newest kind of a shoe. Says an exchange, has a ventilated toe. So has the oldest.

Rev. Missions.—Are you prepared to meet your end?
Miss Gay.—Oh, Doctor, I'm not a contortionist!

THERE are some people in the church who would hurt the devil's cause a great deal if they were to leave it.

FISH Dealer.—Can I sell you a nice green turtle to-day, man? Mrs. Newbridge.—No; but if you have any ripe ones I'll take a couple.

AT the Magistracy this morning Luigi Delagio was brought up on remand charged with stealing Dr. Pratt's pearls, and was further remanded a week.

A FOOTBALL match under Association rules was played on Monday afternoon between the teams of H.M.S. Swift and H.M.S. Impetuous, resulting in a victory for the former by one goal to nil.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s Royal mail steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, arrived at Kobe yesterday at 11 p.m., and left again at noon to-day, for Vancouver, via Yokohama.

An emergency meeting of St. John Lodge No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Saturday, the 7th instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

At Colmar Germany, a lawyer bequeathed the sum of 100,000 francs to the madhouse in that city. "I earned this money," said he in his will, "from those who spent their lifetime in lawsuits. This legacy is only a restitution."

LOOKING Ahead.—"Henry," inquired the anxious wife, "what doctor shall I call?" "Send for Dr. Squiggle," replied the sick husband feebly. "He's counting old Bullion's daughter, and old Bullion is chairman of the life insurance company I'm insured in."

"Mother! to her old maid daughter!—Why, jells, what do you mean by using the family Bible in that way? You are scratching out figure in the family record and inserting others. 'Tally—It is a record of my birth, isn't it?"
"Yes, it is."
"Well, I'm lowering the record."

THE Band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play the following programme at the Ladies Recreation Club to-morrow:-

March—"Our Country"—Williams.
Song—"For the Sake of the Fair"—The Maids.
Selection—"The Rose Tree"—Rosenstein.
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THE originator of the theory that the earth is round was probably Thales of Miletus, about 600 B.C. He not only taught that the earth was globular in form, but knew of the five seasons, some of the principal cities of the sphere, the capacity of the moon and the true course of the lunar eclipses.

EXPERIMENTS show the German rifle to be the most merciful weapon in use in European armies, while the Lobel rifle, used by the French in Dahomey, makes a very ragged wound. The new English magazine rifle seems to be the greatest of the three, as its bullet smashes bones and tears flesh at a distance of 1000 yards.

THOUGHTFUL TOMMY.—"Tommy, I hear your master whipped you as school boys do." "Yes, but he's getting old and weak, so it didn't hurt." "Did you cry?" "Oh, didn't I just! I howled so that you could have heard me in the next street." "Why did you do that, Tommy?" "Oh, I only wanted to make the old gentleman feel happy."

THERE are said to be to-day more than 20,000 women in the United States earning a living by professional and personal service outside that of mechanical labor or work in the shops, in the practice of law and medicine, the teaching of music and art, literature and science, and in clerical work of different kinds in government and other official places.

YESTERDAY afternoon Detective Green paid a Year visit to Mr. Kwan Chung, 39 Praya Central, who was busy just then writing 444 tickets. Chung paid a return visit to the Police Court this morning, mentioned that this was his second performance, and as he had not \$100 to spare, said he had no objection to stay three months.

A well-known American paper claims to have solved the problem of getting men to go to church. If they were permitted to go, says the *Transcript*, in all the glory of the Knight Templar's regalia, with plumed hat and laced coat and gilt trappings, they would be not only willing but anxious to be seen of men in the public assembly on the Sabbath.

ALL-ROUND Extravagance.—"So you think your son's life extravagant?" "Extravagant is no name for it. She won't have anything cooked over; she must have a dress made—always has a new one; she gives away what would keep a family, and now she has capped the climax of her extravagance." "In what way?" "She has just had twins."

FROM the confession of Miller, the Kobe "Vanishing Act" artist, which we reproduce in another column from the *Chronicle* of that village, it almost appears as if "Brownie's" friend Edmund, who was going to do great things in the cattle trade with British Columbia, Peru, etc., early last year, had been a fraud from beginning to end.

APPEARANCES are very deceiving. A little boy at the New York Casino, who noticed the gentlemen looking through their opera glasses at the ballet dancers, and being of the opinion that the opera glasses were for an entirely different purpose, said, "I should have a dress made—always has a new one; she gives away what would keep a family, and now she has capped the climax of her extravagance." "In what way?" "She has just had twins."

ON New Year's Day Mr. J. J. Spooner, Chief Excise officer of the Colony, visited a steamer bound for Shanghai, and discovered a thousand tons of opium, but somehow, possibly owing to the festive season, he failed to find any certificate complying with the Ordinances. After bothering the Police Court for three days, the document turned up all right. No business done.

THE position of cook to an Inn of Court is lucrative and desirable. For a vacant post on Gray's Inn the *chefs* of two of the best West-end clubs were in competition, and it transpired that the bill even at this small Inn was close on £1,000 per annum. Lord Rosebery on visiting another of the Inns was astonished to find that the white-capped and white-aproned gentlemen who came to the bench for criticism and a glass of sherry was one of his own county councillors.

DAKOTA Lawyer (to witness). "You saw the fight with your own eyes, did you?" "Witness (flippantly). "That's what I did." Judge. "Look here, young gent, in answer to my more questions in that slip-slap style in this court room and I'll fine you for contempt of court, danged if I don't. You don't want to forget that you're in a court of justice now, and that the dignity of this here court has got to be preserved if I have to break a leg to do it! Jest mind that, fesshy!"

DURING the hearing of the South Meath election petition on the 22nd November, a feeble old man named Edward O'Keefe, eighty years of age, attended on subpoena but declined to be sworn. He declared that he was a stout ex-Farrellite and had had no peace since Mr. Farrell had been dead. Mr. Justice O'Brien repeatedly warned him that he would be committed for contempt if he persisted in his refusal, and that he would in consequence lose his position as postmaster in the town where he lived. This had no effect upon O'Keefe, who was then committed to prison for a month.

THUS a correspondent—"Here is the little voice that drew Charles J. Holliday." They say in Ceylon they want a new club. It never could. But they can't find the funds and that's the rub. It never could. And the Chairman, who wants to "boss" things his own way. When his colleagues of seat and in aisle say, Well, he simply resigns! there's the devil to pay.

It never could. The artist who won't the above is very clearly the man to succeed Tennyson as Poet Laureate.

TODAY'S SHIPPING RETURNS.

Inward.
Dunlop from Singapore.
Clerio " Saigon.
Amoy " Bangkok.
Peking " Chinkiang.
Kowloon " Bangkok.
Formosa " Tamsui.
Aggregating 6,195 tons register.
Outward.
El Dorado to Canton.
Hailan " Swatow.
Yunyang " Shanghai.
Chiyudra " Singapore.
Yunyang " Amoy.
E-sang " Swatow.
Aggregating 6,455 tons register.

In reference to a paragraph which we reproduced from the *North China Daily News* regarding the "mysterious disappearance" of Mr. George Prentice, of the China Inland Mission, we are informed that there must be some mistake, as it was perfectly well known in Shanghai, that Mr. Prentice was desirous of going home on account of the sufferings he had gone through in the interior of China, in consequence of which his health was much shattered. He was waiting for the Shanghai Director to send him home, as the C. I. M. people must have known, and left Shanghai on Saturday the 24th, and per the steamer *Myos*, arriving here on Tuesday night the 27th. Mr. Prentice Tuesday night in Hongkong and left for Scotland the following day (28th, viz), by the French Mail steamer *Salapia*. His friends up North will be glad to learn that he is quite safe, and has not got lost in Shanghai.

A REGULAR meeting of the Diligentia Lodge of Instruction will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Thursday, the 12th instant, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THERE are other suns in space that are infinitely larger than the one which gives us heat, light and life. The star Arcturus, which is known to be a sun for a far-away system of planets, is 11,500,000 times further removed from us than is our solar luminary. His diameter is 71,000,000 and his circumference about 224,000,000 miles. Our sun is but 866,000 miles in diameter, a fact which proves that Arcturus is at least 55,000 times greater in bulk than is our "great orb of days."

"Ever in jail?" asked Dare-Devil Dick. "Once," answered Sanguinary Bill. "Hoss stealin'." "Git sent up?" "Yes, two year." "What was y'r pals? Couldn't they prove an alibi?" "Yes, they could have proved one for me, but they couldn't have proved no alibi for the hoss. I was ridin' him when I was ketched, b'gosh!"

THE origin of oxal soup is said to be as follows:—During the Reign of Terror in Paris in 1793 many of the nobility were reduced to starvation and beggary. The abbottles sent their hides fresh to the tanneries without removing the tails, and in cleaning them the tails were thrown away. One of these noble beggars asked for a tail, and it was willingly given to him. He took it to his lodgings and made (what is now) (moss) the first dish of oxal soup. He told others of his good luck, and they annoyed the tanners so much that a price was put upon them.

STRAY THOUGHTS.
The dead binds—the necktie.
A round of pleasure will not always make things square.
Who cares to know the pedigree of a sausage? How can a cook cut capers in an onion bed? When you wish to borrow it is wonderful how many about people you meet.
"Has it ever occurred to you why the sun rises in the east?" "Certainly," replied the smart boy. "The east makes everything rise."
What is better than a promising figure? A paying one!
A man who is a lamb in society is usually a bear at home.

A few useful household items:—One who has experienced insomnia found a cure for it in the practice of going over the whole body with a fish-glove—a quick, dry, vigorous hand-rubbing—just before going to bed. A servant who applied to a brute in his kitchen. All kinds of cooked fish can be served with salads. Lettuce is the best green salad to serve, but all cooked and cold vegetables go well with fish.
Tea and coffee kept in glass fruit jars instead of the boxes is much improved in flavor.
Old newspapers make the best of house-cleaning materials. They are excellent for cleaning windows, "just the thing" for scouring woodwork and unequalled for cleaning brass and silverware.
Drain pipes and all places that are sour or impure should be cleaned with lime water or carbolic acid.

THE TAIKOO RECREATION CLUB ATHLETIC SPORTS.

A very enjoyable athletic meeting was held at Quarry Bay on Monday the 2nd January, in splendid weather. There was a fair number of spectators, and everything passed off beautifully. Details:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE—Prize, Cup. Entries Messrs. Kirkpatrick, White, Grimshaw, Perrie, Dickson.

Mr. G. Kirkpatrick 1
Mr. Frank White 2
Time 17 1/2 seconds.

PUTTING THE SHOT—Entries Messrs. Wark, Colla, Perrie, Edwards. 23 ft. 4 inches.

Mr. W. Wark 1
Mr. R. Perrie 2
HIGH JUMP—Entries Messrs. Currie, White, Perrie, Kirkpatrick, Stuart. Height 4 ft. 11 inches.

Mr. Frank White 1
Mr. G. Kirkpatrick 2
100 YARDS FLAT RACE—Entries Messrs. Colla, Baw, Wark, Edwards. (From 30 to 40 years old).

Mr. J. Colla 1
Mr. R. Baw 2
Time 13 seconds.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL—Entries Messrs. White, Dickson, Blake, Eckoff, Edwards. 144 ft.

Mr. Frank White, 98 yards 2 ft. 1
Mr. J. Baw, 70 yards 1 ft. 2
LONG JUMP—Entries Messrs. Grimshaw, Shuster, Dickson, Currie, Wark.

Mr. F. Shuster, 13 feet 9 inches 1
Mr. T. Grimshaw, 12 feet 7 inches 2
1 MILE FLAT RACE—Prize Cup. Entries Messrs. Foyan, Kirkpatrick, White, Wark, Stuart, Shuster, Dickson and Currie.

Mr. G. Kirkpatrick 1
Mr. D. Currie 2
Time 5 min. 10 sec.

100 YARDS VETERAN RACE—Prize. Entries Messrs. MacDonald, Wark, Harvie and Edwards.

Mr. E. MacDonald 1
Mr. J. Harvie 2
Time 1 1/2 min.

1 MILE WALKING RACE—Prize Cup. Entries Messrs. Dickson, White, Foyan, Kirkpatrick, Grimshaw and Wark.

Mr. T. Foyan 1
Mr. R. Dickson 2
ORANGE RACE—(20 oranges to be placed 3 feet apart). Entries Messrs. Wark, Berwick, Blake, Hardwick, Grimshaw, Ferguson, Summers, Eckoff, Foyan and White.

Mr. D. Currie 1
Mr. R. Berwick 2
1 MILE FLAT RACE—Entries Messrs. Perrie, Kirkpatrick, Grimshaw, Wark, Dickson, Stuart, Currie and Berwick.

Mr. G. Kirkpatrick 1
Mr. R. Perrie 2
Time 3 min. 30 sec.
TWO OF WAR—(11 men aside).
Mr. N. Wark v. Dr. O'Brien.
Winner Dr. O'Brien's Team.
Tikiou Club v. Jardine's Club (to aside).
Winner Tikiou Club's Team.
Committee—Messrs. J. Behrens, R. Berwick, R. Ferguson, R. Perrie.
Referee—Mr. R. Berwick.
Starter—T. Grimshaw.
Clerk of the Course, and Timekeeper—W. Hardwick.
Hon. Treasurer—Dr. O'Brien.
Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. Hardwick.
Miss Edith Gibbs kindly presented the prizes.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Chief Justice Fielding Clarke.)

January 4th.

DELLIOS AND HIS ANCIENT LIGHTS.

In the suit of E. R. Dellios for an injunction against Ng Li Shing, to stop certain buildings in Lyndhurst Terrace, shutting out the light from plaintiff's office, defendant moved the Court to dismiss the case. Mr. Francis, with whom was Dr. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkins) appeared for the defendant, and Mr. Leitch, with whom was Mr. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Wilkins) was for the plaintiff. Mr. Francis stated that this was a motion to dismiss the case without calling on the defendant, on the ground that there was no such thing in Hongkong as "ancient lights." The provisions of the Prescription Act (3 and 4 William IV.) had never been in force here, because they were not applicable to the circumstances of the Colony. He further submitted that there could be no easement of light in respect of land where there was a public road intervening, over which no easement could exist. (Case proceeding.)

NEWS BY THE CANADIAN MAIL.

The following telegrams were held over from last night:—

BERLIN, December 6th.

Rector Ahlwardt experienced a reverse to-day in the Meibach criminal court, where he is being tried for libelling the *Ludwig* newspaper, a gun maker, and Lieut. Col. Kohn. Yesterday Ahlwardt demanded that Count Hohenhausen, Freiherr von Wachenbuth and Dr. Pasch be summoned to testify. These gentlemen, he said, had overheard a conversation between Loewe and Kohn, in which the latter spoke in a deprecating manner of the gun inspectors. These gentlemen appeared to-day, and testified unambiguously that they had heard no such conversation. The rebuttal in the Ahlwardt-Friedberg district for member of the Reichstag to place to-day, and resulted in the return of Pastor Ahlwardt. The poll stood Ahlwardt, 10,300; Draue, (Freisinnige) 3,075.

The members of the center party in the Reichstag have held three conferences to decide upon the course the party would follow regarding the army bill. It was generally believed that a split would occur in the party over the measure, and that thirty-four of the Southern members would vote with the opposition and the seventy-six others with the government. The result of the conference proves that this belief was unfounded. The army bill will not cause a split in the party.

The Bundesrath today sanctioned the changes in the taxes on brandy and horse transactions provided in the army bills. It was reported that the Bundesrath had decided to make important modifications in the provisions of the bills imposing new taxes, but its action to-day in sanctioning the above changes as proposed by the government shows the reports to have been unfounded in these respects at least.

The rebuttal in the Ahlwardt-Friedberg district for member of the Reichstag to-day resulted in the return of Pastor Ahlwardt, the anti-Semitic, now on trial for libelling Loewe, the Hebrew small arms manufacturer. The poll stands: Ahlwardt, 10,300; Draue, Freisinniger, 3,075.

It is said that the Kaiser has been informed of the abstraction from the War Office of the Ahlwardt documents, and that there is little hope of the culprit ever being discovered.

Rector Ahlwardt has been returned to the Reichstag by a large majority. His triumph is almost the sole topic of conversation. In an interview on Saturday Police Inspector said he regarded the strong police in favor of Ahlwardt at the 6th Friedrichsplatz as a demonstration of popular discontent with the present regime, and proof of the growth of anti-Semitism.

BRUSSELS, December 6th.

The International Monetary Conference resumed its sittings to-day and continued its discussion of the report of the committee which examined into the Rothschild proposals. After a speech by Sir C. Rivers Wilson, a member of the British delegation, Mr. Rothschild announced that he withdrew his scheme from further consideration at the conference.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 6th.
The Russian newspapers accuse Miss Kate Maraden, of the Red Cross society, who is attempting to raise funds for the relief of lepers in Siberia, of exaggeration in her accounts of the ravages of leprosy in that portion of the empire. The papers state that instead of 10,000 lepers being annually in the province of Yakutsk, in eastern Siberia, there are only 400 persons suffering with the disease in the whole province.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 6th.
It was reported by afternoon that Jim Burge, the Australian iron man, was doing last Friday morning he and Sam Fitzpatrick, the trainer, had a dispute over a game of cards, which culminated in Fitzpatrick striking Burge a vicious blow on the side of the head with an iron cribbage board, inflicting an ugly scalp wound. It is believed an internal membrane was broken by the blow. With the best of care, Burge will pull through. He refuses to have Fitzpatrick arrested.

LIVERPOOL, December 6th.
A very heavy gale prevails in this vicinity and a tremendous sea is running at the mouth of the Mersey river, making it exceedingly dangerous for vessels to seek to enter or clear the river. This morning the Norwegian bark *Dungen* ran aground on Burbo bank and was completely submerged. Life boats put out for the bark, but the bark went down before they reached her. Everybody on board the bark was lost.

SWANSEA, December 6th.

The exports of tin-plate from this port last week reached the unusual amount of 120,337 boxes. A notable feature of the orders was that they were mostly from Birmmham, Russia, where the plates will be made into receptacles for petroleum. In the event of the American trade ever returning to Wales prosperous times will be in store.

A few days ago a band of Chifast tribesmen numbering a thousand men made an attack upon a Cashmere guard under the command of Dr. Robertson, the British agent at Chitral. The tribesmen were repulsed with a loss of fifty killed. Two days later a force commanded by Mr. Telford attacked and dispersed the tribesmen. It is supposed that the Chifasts were incited to attack the British army by Sher Ali Khan, the usurping ruler of Chitral.

LONDON, December 6th.
Mrs. Maybrick's condition is critical. On Tuesday her illness was so serious that the governor of the prison telegraphed to the Baroness De Rougemont, Mrs. Maybrick's mother, at Rouen, and she arrived in England yesterday. Herbert Spencer, the noted author, is seriously ill.

BERLIN, December 6th.
In the Reichstag to-day Mr. Beck, Conservative, supported by many members of his party, introduced an interpellation, demanding to know whether the Federal Government approved of the German delegates to the Brussels Conference not supporting the proposed Convention of delegates to come at the deputation of

WASHINGTON, December 9th.
A letter from a member of the monetary conference at Brussels says:—"There is no hope for bimetalism, and it is scarcely probable that any definite conclusion will be reached by the conference."

THE KOBE VANISHING ACT ARTIST.

CONFESSION OF MILLER.

As soon as the *Meibach* arrived yesterday morning (says the *Asahi Chronicle* of the 24th ult.) Mr. Ziegfeld of the China and Japan Trading Co., came ashore, accompanied by G. E. Miller, who is accused of embezzling funds belonging to the above-named company, and proceeded direct to the United States Consulate. While in the shipping office of the Consulate Miller had a warrant served upon him by the Marshal of the Court. Upon being served with the warrant, Miller stated that he was aware that a warrant had been issued for his arrest and the service was expected. The accused was immediately brought before Mr. E. J. Smith, U.S. Consul, and upon being asked by the Judge if he was ready for preliminary examination, stated that he desired it as early as possible.

His Honour asked Mr. Ziegfeld if it was possible for Mr. P. to be present at the examination, to which Mr. Ziegfeld replied that Mr. P. was ill in bed and unable to attend. The Judge then asked if Mr. L. of the same firm, could be present. Mr. Ziegfeld said that he did not know his whereabouts. His Honour said that it was necessary to have some evidence before him in order to commit Miller for trial. Accused asked whether he could be committed for trial upon the confession made by him in the presence of the Consul Agent at Sourabaya, whereupon the Judge asked that the document be produced, and it was handed in by Mr. Ziegfeld. After reading the confession, the Judge asked Miller if he recognized the document and if it was signed by him, and whether he was now willing of his own accord to make the same confession to him, warning him at the same time that he was not obliged to do so. The accused answered that he wished them—and there to make the same confession, and it was then read as follows:—"I, Charles Edward Miller, a citizen of the United States of America, lately residing at Kobe, Japan, but at present confined in the prison at Sourabaya, declare as follows:—

"I am the person against whom a warrant has been issued at Kobe aforesaid, charging me with the crime of embezzlement. Though I cannot plead guilty to this charge, I do say that owing to a breach of trust on my part the China and Japan Trading Co., Limited, at Kobe has temporarily been deprived of the use of a large sum of money, the property, which sum I believe to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000 dollars.

"The circumstances lead up to the missing of this amount are as follow:—Since December, 1889, I filled the position of Cashier and Book-keeper to the China & Japan Trading Co., Limited, and in that capacity was entrusted with the funds of that firm. I had also to keep the firm's books, which naturally entailed considerable work, so much so that my eyesight, which always had been bad, grew worse to such an alarming extent that I was obliged to take medical advice at various times, and after the most careful examination of my eyes the verdict of the oculist was that I was suffering from 'progressive myopia,' the progress of which medical skill could stop or even delay, and that it would eventually end in total blindness unless I could give up the close work I was then doing and take to outdoor work, where I would not need to continually strain my eyes. I returned, however, to my work, since there was no absolute necessity for my giving up my position, and my employment in Japan, and did the best I could, and did not heart with the gloomy prospect of soon being unable any longer to earn my daily bread or bread for my family. While in this melancholy state, I became acquainted with a man from Vancouver, B.C., who had on hand a scheme for sending Japanese labourers, &c., over to British Columbia to settle there. After having thoroughly gone into the emigration scheme I was convinced that if I entered into it I would not only get away from my bookwork, but would be able to make considerable profit.

"It seemed to me that Providence had thrown this chance in my way, and my opportunity came to me, and I decided to go into and enter into partnership with the aforesaid party. I personally concluded all necessary arrangements with a Japanese Company, for the purpose of sending Japanese labourers, and for the obtaining of the sanction of the Japanese Government to the scheme, and after everything was satisfactorily arranged, I went to Yokohama for the purpose of raising the necessary capital to carry out the scheme.

"The capital required was \$10,000, but after completing the underwriting and all papers and documents connected therewith before a moneyed man (Mr. Johnston) to whom I had been recommended, he decided that that sum would be too small, that it would be necessary to have \$50,000 at our back. On 11th inst. I met another gentleman, Mr. Donald Fraser, in the scheme, and after four or five days' negotiation I left Yokohama with the promise from both these gentlemen that they would back the scheme to the extent of whatever amount was necessary. I returned to Kobe and reported the result of my trip to the manager of my firm, with whose consent I had made

